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A

DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGUE

OF THE

CHOICEST VARIETIES

OF

Dutch Flower Roots,

FOR AUTUMN PLANTING,

IMPORTED FROM HOLLAND,

AND OFFERED FOR SALE BY

BENJ. T. WELLS,

18 HAWLEY ST., near corner Milk St.,

BOSTON, Mass.

This Season I offer the Largest Bulbs of the Finest Flowers selected especially for retail sales.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

I am prepared to lay out, plant, and arrange ground for growing BULBS in a satisfactory manner; also for potting and forcing the same for house culture.

HARDY SPRING-FLOWERING
BULBOUS ROOTS,

THEIR NATURE AND TREATMENT.

PLANTED FROM SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER.

BULBS belong to a particular division of the vegetable kingdom. They are all, with scarcely a single exception, very ornamental, and hence desirable for the very large size of their flower in proportion to the entire plant, and for the brilliancy of their colors. By far the greater number of bulbs flower in the spring, and produce their flower stems immediately after they begin to grow; and shortly after they have flowered they cease growing, and remain dormant and without leaves during the remainder of the year; hence, almost all bulbs require to be planted in the autumn—a fact which most amateurs are apt to overlook, and frequently send their orders out of season. They require a free, dry and somewhat rich soil, into which the roots may penetrate freely. A bulb is essentially a bud, and contains within itself the germs of the leaves and flowers which are to be produced the following season: thus, in one sense, they are of more easy culture than any other class of plants, because the germ being previously formed, and the nourishment being provided in the body of the bulb, it is only necessary to supply heat and moisture to cause them to develop. This is fully exemplified in the *Hyacinth*, *Narcissus*, *Crocus*, early *Tulips*, and some other bulbs, which can be flowered when placed over water in glasses, or in wet moss. The *Hyacinth* is the especial favorite for forcing in glasses, and full directions for their management will be found under the head of Hyacinths.

SOIL.

The proper compost for Hyacinths, Tulips, Crown Imperials, Iris, Ranunculus, Anemones, Crocus, and most other bulbs, is the following: one-third sand, one-third well rotted cow manure, and one-third good garden mould.

TIME OF PLANTING.

The preferable season for planting all hardy bulbs is from October to December; but they can be set out at any later time, *so long as the bulbs remain sound, and the ground remains open.*

DEPTH AND DISTANCE.

Hyacinths and large Lilies should be planted at the depth of four inches: Crown Imperials and Polyanthus Narcissus, five inches; Tulips, Double Narcissus, Jonquils and Colchicums, three inches; Bulbous Iris, Crocus, small Fritillarias, Gladiolus Byzantinus, and Snowdrops, two inches; Ranunculus and Anemones, one inch, always measuring from top of the bulb. The rows should be about ten inches apart, and the bulbs to be placed from four to eight inches apart in the rows, according to their size. As the cold weather approaches, give the bed a good covering of leaves, hay, old manure or tan to prevent the frost from penetrating to the bulbs. Early in the spring, as soon as the shoots are pushing through it, the covering should be carefully removed, and the earth slightly stirred with a garden fork.

TAKING UP AND PRESERVING.

Take up Bulbous Roots about a month after the blossom is completely over, in the following manner: when the plants put on a yellowish decayed appearance, take up the roots, cut off the stem and foliage within an inch of the bulbs, but leave the fibres, &c., attached to them; spread them in an airy room for two or three weeks to dry; after which wrap each root carefully in paper (as the air is very injurious to bulbs), or cover them in sand perfectly dry.

HOW TO FORCE FLOWER ROOTS IN DOORS.

Among all plants, the bulbs are the only ones that flower without requiring any particular care. Making a good selection, the amateur can force them in his own room, and procure himself in winter, during the sleep of nature, flowers that rejoice the eye with their magnificent colors, and flatter the smell with their sweet scents. The easiest way to succeed in this purpose is the following.

Hyacinths are to be planted in the course of October, in pots about six inches in height, which must be filled with a compound of moulded leaves, well decayed manure, and some sand. The top of the bulb should be about half an inch under the surface of this soil, well tightened down, to prevent the bulb from raising it in growing. The pots should remain out of doors till the middle of November, and, if possible, dug in the earth for two or three inches; there being no opportunity for this, the compound in the pots should be kept very moist. Towards the middle of November the pots must be taken in doors, and put on saucers before a window, where they can daily enjoy the light of the sun for a couple of hours. In the evening, especially when it freezes, they should be put in the middle of the room, always at a good distance from the fire. Every two or three days the pots should be watered, while the saucers should always remain full with water. When the stem has reached a certain height, it should be tied up to a small stick.

If one wishes to force Hyacinths on glasses filled with rainwater, one should be careful to keep the underpart of the bulbs on a level with the water, and be particular in not removing them when the glasses are being filled. The glasses are put for the first fortnight in a dry, dark place, to give the bulbs the opportunity of strengthening their roots. After this they are gradually inured to the light and placed before the window, while a bit of wire is fastened to the glass to support the stem.

As all Hyacinths cannot be trained in that way, we request our customers to let us know the number of bulbs they intend for this purpose.

Tulips, Narcissus, Jonquils and Crocuses are potted at the same time and treated in the same way as Hyacinths. Crocuses produce a fine effect, when every sort is planted on a dish filled with fine white sand, that should always be kept moist. Some large yellow ones must be put in the middle of the dish, then a round of blue and white ones, and the remaining room must be filled with striped Crocuses.

Several species are recommended for flower beds, and by their flowering early and splendid colors produce a most agreeable sight.

They do well in a light garden soil; a compound of turf and well decayed manure is perhaps the best that can be used. The bulbs are planted in Octo- with their crowns about three inches beneath the surface of the soil, and to protect them against the frost, the ground should be covered with straw or leaves.

The Hyacinth will grow in flower-pots, glass vases, cups and saucers filled with fresh moss, as well as in a compost of good mould; one great advantage of growing them in this way is that several bulbs of different colors may be planted together, and, owing to the lightness of the moss, they can be carried to any part of the house at pleasure. Early Tulips, Narcissus, and Crocuses, may be treated in the same way, excepting that the Crocus will not stand so much heat at the first stage of its growth and must be turned outside of the window every fine day, and, if not frosty, *all night*. The moss must be kept moderately damp.

Persons not sufficiently acquainted with the different varieties of Hyacinths or other Bulbs, will do well to leave the choice to our care. They may be sure that their interest will be kept carefully in view.

CATALOGUE.

CHOICE NAMED HYACINTHS,

For Forcing in Pots, for Hyacinth Glasses, and for Garden Culture. A selection of the finest kinds for General Culture.

PRICE, $2.00 per Dozen.

NO.

1. **Alba Superbissima,** single pure white.
2. **Baron von Thuyll,** single dark blue.
3. **Blocksberg,** double porcelain blue, early.
4. **Blue Mourant,** single dark blue.
5. **Charles Dickens,** single lilac blue.
6. **Czar Nicolas,** double rose pink, early.
7. **Emma Livry,** single pure yellow.
8. **Emmeline,** single blushed white.
9. **Grand Vedette,** single pure white.
10. **Grandeur a' Merveille,** single white, shaded.
11. **Grand Lilas,** single porcelain lilac.
12. **La Virginite,** double white, shaded, early.
13. **La Tour d' Auvergne,** double pure white.
14. **La Belle Blanchissense,** pure white.
15. **Maria Theresia,** single rose pink.
16. **Norma,** single rose.
17. **Orondatus,** single dark blue.
18. **Princess Alexandra,** single red.
19. **Queen Victoria Alexandrina,** single dark red.
20. **Regina Victoria,** double dark rose, early.
21. **Rembrandt,** double lilac blue
22. **Robert Steiger,** single dark red.
23. **Rousseau,** single white, shaded.
24. **Uncle Tom,** single blue black.
25. **Veronica,** single dark red.

SELECT HYACINTHS,

For Beds and Borders. Mixed in different sorts, without names.

PRICE,

In assortments, $1.25 per Dozen.
In separate colors, $1.50 " "

NO.

26. Single red and rose varieties, for beds and borders.
27. " blushed white " " " " "
28. " pure white " " " " "
29. " yellow " " " " "
30. " blue " " " " "
31. Double red and rose " " " " "
32. " white " " " " "
33. " blue " " " " "
34. " yellow " " " " "
35. Single red and rose " " forcing in pots.
36. " blushed white " " " " "
37. " pure white " " " " "
38. " yellow " " " " "
39. " blue " " " " "
40. Double red and rose " " " " "
41. " white " " " " "
42. " blue " " " " "
43. " yellow " " " " "

Very Choice Single Early Flowering Tulips

In distinct named varieties, for Beds and Borders, for House Culture, Forcing, &c.

PRICE,

In assortments, $3.50 per 100; 50 cents per Dozen.
In separate colors, $4.00 per 100; 60 " " "

NO.

44. **Chrysolora,** yellow.
45. **Claremont Silver,** white and rose.
46. **Duc van Tholl,** crimson, early.
47. **Early Jack,** red and yellow, very early.
48. **Garibaldi,** bright scarlet, very dwarf.
49. **Golden Prince,** yellow.
50. **Jacht van Delft,** white, good cup for forcing.
51. **La Precieuse,** broken, white and rose, feathered extra.
52. **Moliere,** purple.
53. **Pottebakker,** white, for forcing, early.
54. **Princess Louise,** violet and white, large cup, dwarf.
55. **Queen Victoria,** almost pure white, extra early forcing.
56. **Rose Grisdelin,** rose.
57. **Roi Cramosi,** red.
58. **White Swan,** pure white.

Fine Single Early Flowering Tulips,

In distinct named varieties, for Beds, Borders, &c.

PRICE,

In assortments, $2.50 per 100; 40 cents per Dozen.
In separate colors, $3.00 " " 50 " " "

NO.

59. **Bizard Verdikt,** yellow, feathered with red.
60. **Couleur Cramoisi,** crimson scarlet.
61. **Couleur Ponceau,** rose, white ground.
62. **Cardinalshat,** dark red.
63. **Duchesse de Parme,** yellow and red.
64. **Duc van Tholl,** red and yellow, dwarf, early.
65. **Eleonora,** purple.
66. **Jacht van Delft,** white.
67. **La Reine,** nearly pure white, extra for bedding.
68. **Lac van Rijn,** light purple and white.
69. **Lac van Rijn,** red, cherry and white.
70. **Reine des Cerises,** red and white.
71. **Rosa Mundi,** white bordered, rose flaked.

SINGLE EARLY MIXED TULIPS,

Of good varieties, for Beds and Borders.

PRICE,

$2.00 per 100; 30 cents per Dozen.

NO.

72. A fine mixture of good sorts, not named, selected from choice colors and varieties, and mixed.

CHOICE EARLY DOUBLE TULIPS,

In distinct named varieties, for Beds and Borders.

PRICE,

In assortments, $3.50 per 100; 50 cents per Dozen.
In separate colors, $4.00 " " 60 " " "

NO.

73. **Duke of York,** bronzed crimson.
74. **Duc van Tholl,** crimson, dwarf.
75. **Gloria Solis,** brown, with yellow.
76. **Grisdelin,** pale lilac and white.
77. **Imperator Rubrorum,** scarlet.
78. **La Candeur,** pure white.
79. **Murillo,** rose and white.
80. **Rex Rubrorum,** scarlet.
81. **Titian,** brown and yellow.
82. **Scarlet King,** bright scarlet.
83. Mixed varieties of cheaper sorts than above. Price, $2.00 per 100; 35 cents per dozen.

FINE LATE TULIPS,

In distinct named varieties, for Gardens, Beds, &c.

PRICE,

In assortments, $4.00 per 100; 60 cents per Dozen.
In separate colors, $5.00 " " 75 " " "

NO.

84. **Blue Flag,** blue violet.
85. **Belle Alliance,** violet and white.
86. **Mariage de ma fille,** red and white stripes.
87. **Rhinoceros,** extra purple.
88. **Yellow Rose,** pure yellow.
89. Good mixed varieties less valuable than above. Price, $3.00 per 100; 40 cents per dozen.

Various Other Tulips,

In distinct named varieties, for Beds and Borders.

NO.		PRICE PER 100.	PER DOZ.
90.	**Parrots,** mixed in choice varieties of red, yellow, brown, &c	$ 3.50	$ .50
91.	**Byblooms,** late variegated varieties, mixed sorts and colors, white grounds, shaded	10.00	1.50
92.	**Violets,** fine varieties, mixed, very choice selections.	7.00	1.00
93.	**Roses,** " " " " " "	7.00	1.00
94.	**Bizards,** " " " " " "	5.00	.75
95.	**Double Duc van Tholls,** mixed, for pots, &c	3.50	.50

CROCUS.

NO.		PRICE PER 100.	PER DOZ.
96.	**Blue,** in fine mixed varieties, not named	$ .75	$ .10
97.	**Striped,** " " " " "	.75	.10
98.	**White,** " " " " "	.75	.10
99.	**Purple,** " " " " "	.75	.10
100.	**Yellow,** " " " " "	.75	.10
101.	All colors, all sorts, mixed, smaller bulbs	50	.10

DOUBLE NARCISSUS,

In distinct named varieties, for Potting, Beds and Borders.

PRICE, $1.00 per Dozen.

NO.
102. **Alba Pleno Odorato,** white, fragrant.
103. **Ajax Pumilus Plenus,** yellow.
104. **Ajax Tradescantus,** yellow.
105. **Ajax von Sion,** yellow.
106. **Centifolius,** yellow.
107. **Incomparabilis, Plenus,** yellow.
108. Do. **Orange Phœnix,** yellow and orange.
109. Do. **Sulphur Crown,** white.

SINGLE NARCISSUS,

In distinct named varieties, for Pots and Garden Beds.

PRICE, $1.00 per Dozen.

NO.
110. **Ajax, Trumpet Major,** yellow.
111. Do. Do. **Maximus,** dark yellow.
112. Do. **Nana Minor,** dwarf, yellow.
113. **Biflorus,** white and yellow.
114. **Corbularia Conspicua,** yellow. (Bulbicodium.)
115. **Incomparabilis, Semipartitus.**
116. Do. **Stella,** white and yellow.
117. **Jonquilles,** single, sweet scented, 50 cents per dozen.
118. **Odorus Campernelli,** fragant, yellow, early.
119. Do. **Minor,** yellow, dwarf, fine.
120. **Poeticus,** white, yellow and orange.
121. Do. **Flora Pleno,** very sweet, pure white, 50 cents per dozen.

POLYANTHUS NARCISSUS,

In named varieties, for Pots, Gardens, Beds and Borders.

PRICE, $1.50 per Dozen.

NO.
122. **Bouquet Triumphante,** white.
123. **Belle Legion,** yellow and white.
124. **Gloriosa,** white and citron.
125. **Grand Monarque,** white and citron.
126. **Grand Primo,** white and citron.
127. **Grand Soliel d'or,** dark yellow.
128. **Pro Patria,** white and citron.
129. **Queen of Narcissus,** pure white.
130. **Staten General,** white and citron.
131. **White Pearl,** white.

CROWN IMPERIALS,

For Beds and Borders.

NO.		PRICE PER DOZ.
132.	Fine mixed varieties, different colors, red, yellow, variegated, &c.	$2.00

SNOW DROPS,

For Pots and Gardens.

NO.		PRICE PER 100.	PER DOZ.
133.	Single varieties, pure white, early flowering	$1.50	$ .20

OXALIS,

For House Culture in Pots.

NO.		PRICE PER 100.	PER DOZ.
134.	Fine varieties, in 12 distinct named colors	$5.00	$ .75
135.	Good " mixed in 6 sorts	3.00	.50

LILIES,

For Forcing, Pots, Gardens, &c.

NO.			PRICE PER DOZ.	EACH.
136.	**Lilium**	**Auratum,** golden lily of Japan, fragrant	$5.00	$ .50
137.	Do.	**Candidum,** pure white, fragrant, $10 per 100,	1.50	.15
138.	Do.	**Fulgens Umbellatum,** yellow and brown,	1.50	.15
139.	Do.	**Longiflorum,** snow white, fragrant, $10.00 per 100	1.50	.15
140.	Do.	**Lancifolium, Album,** white	5.00	.50
141.	Do.	Do. **Rubrum,** white, spotted, red	2.00	.25
142.	Do.	Do. **Roseum,** " " rose,	2.00	.25

N. B.—We have imported for the trade and for those who desire to make a large planting of Bulbs, assorted Boxes of 1000, 2000 and 3000 Bulbs, consisting of Hyacinths, Tulips, Crocus, Lilies, &c., which we will sell at very low prices.